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So, Who Has the WPA Historical Records Survey Publications? The ASERL Center of Excellence for the Works Progress/Work Projects Administration at the University of Kentucky

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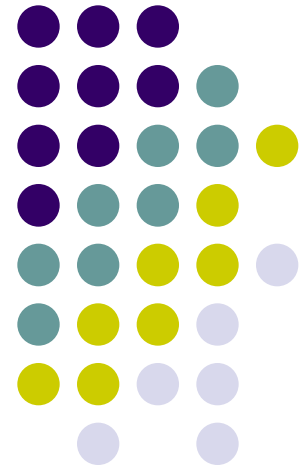
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So, Who Has the WPA Historical Records Survey Publications?

The ASERL Center of Excellence
for the Works Progress/Work
Projects Administration at the
University of Kentucky



Presentation by Sandra McAninch (mcaninch@uky.edu), Regional Depository Librarian,
University of Kentucky Libraries, at the American Library Association Annual Conference,
Las Vegas, NV, June 30, 2014



History of UK's COE

- 2007: Assoc. of SE Research Libraries (ASERL)'s Collaborative Federal Depository Program (CFDP) Steering Committee starts meeting to design Center of Excellence (COE) project
- 2008: UK volunteers to be COE for Works Progress Admin. (WPA)--our WPA inventory begins
- 2009: ASERL receives a 3-year IMLS National Leadership Grant to support ongoing development of ASERL CFDP Centers of Excellence project--WPA cataloging begins at UK
- 2010: UK signs Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as COE for the WPA--collection development/evaluation begins at UK for WPA



Goals of the CFDP

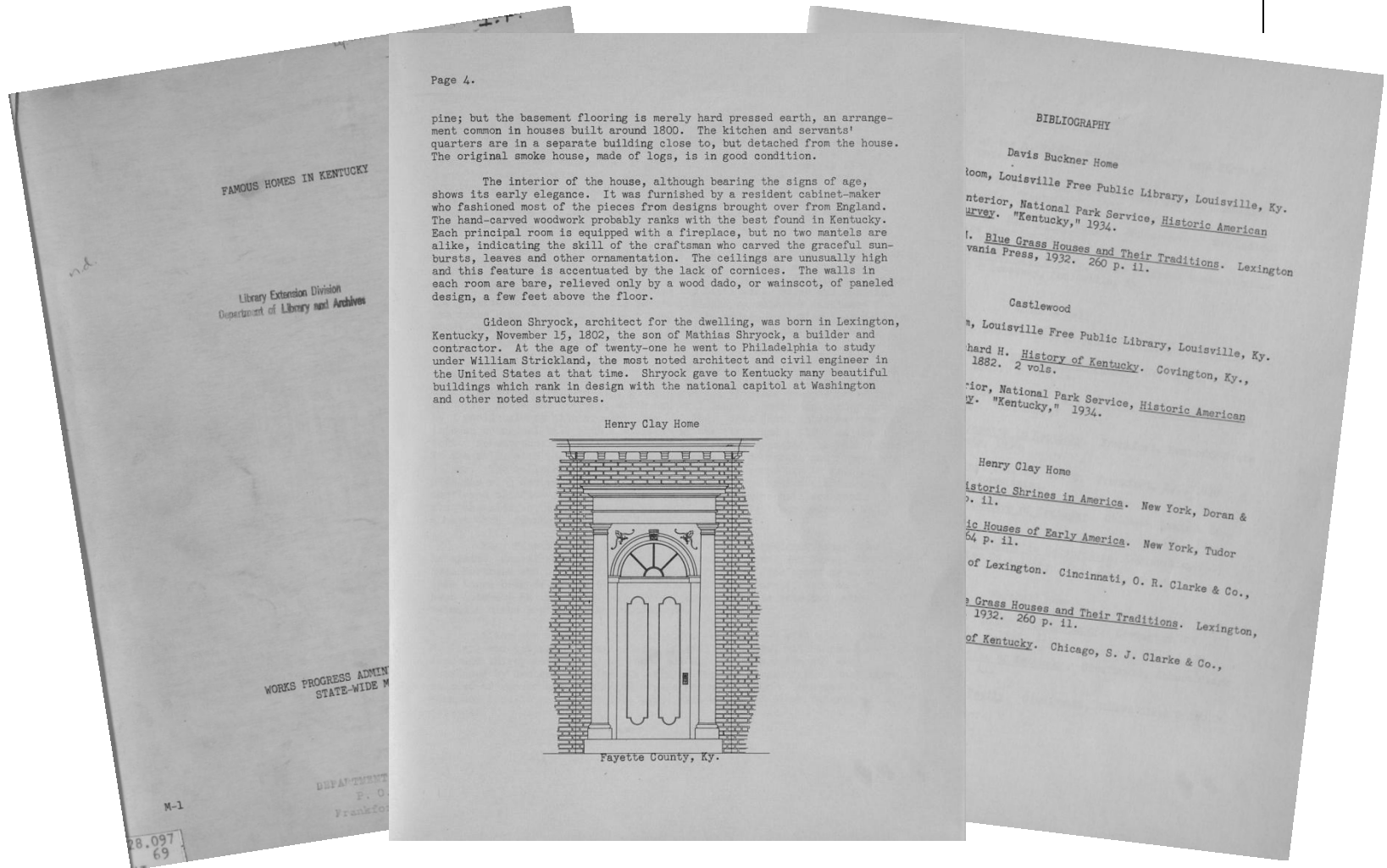
- Create “Centers of Excellence” at depositories to ensure multiple, complete retrospective collections by agency
- Collections will be supported by subject matter experts, able to provide sophisticated, in-depth reference services
- Work within USC Title 44, including respect for the Regional depository library model



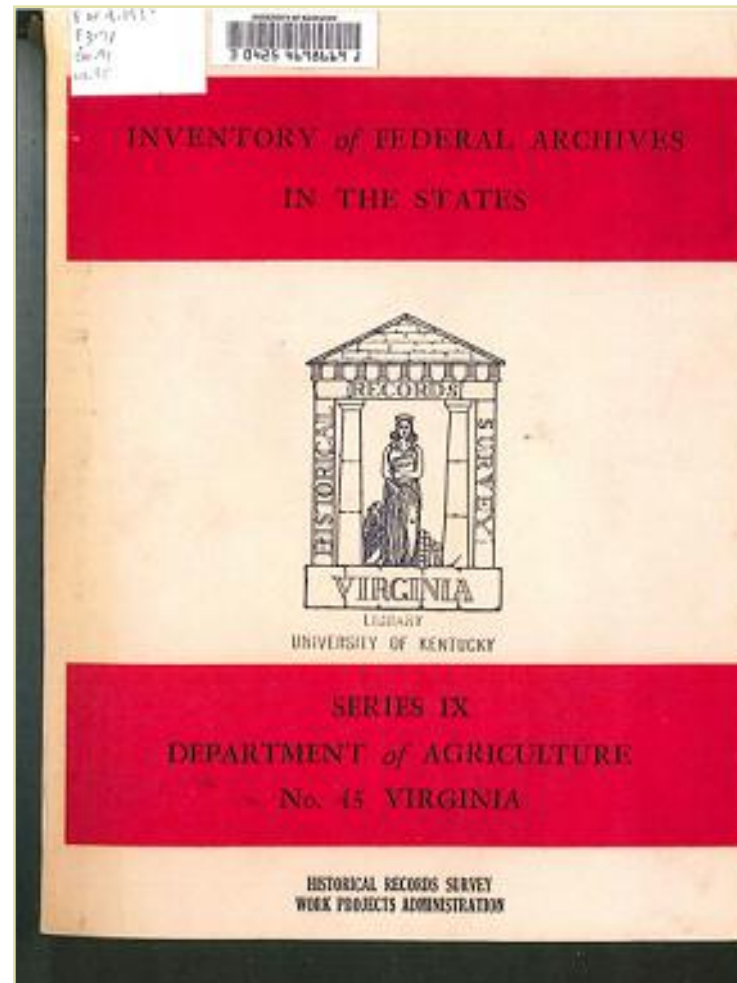
UK's COE Responsibilities

- Inventory and evaluate holdings for WPA
- Catalog each WPA item
- Create a bibliography of all WPA titles, owned and not owned
- Add WPA records to the ASERL COE database
- Fill gaps to ensure comprehensive collection
- Make materials available via ILL
- Digitize
- Promote the use of the collection

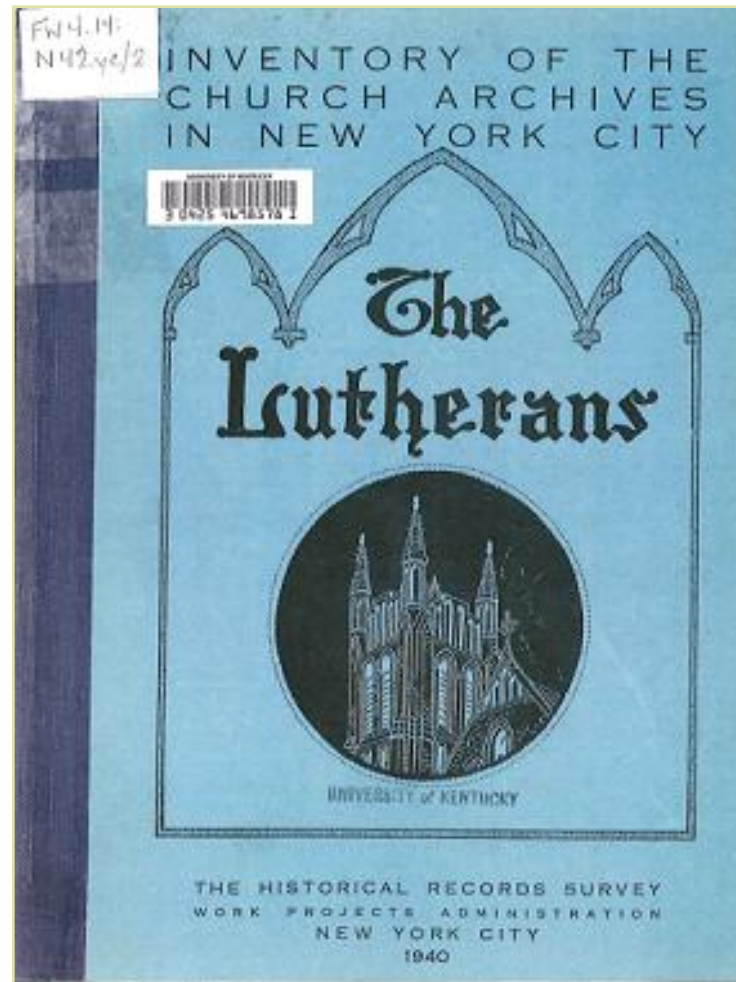
Examples of WPA Publications



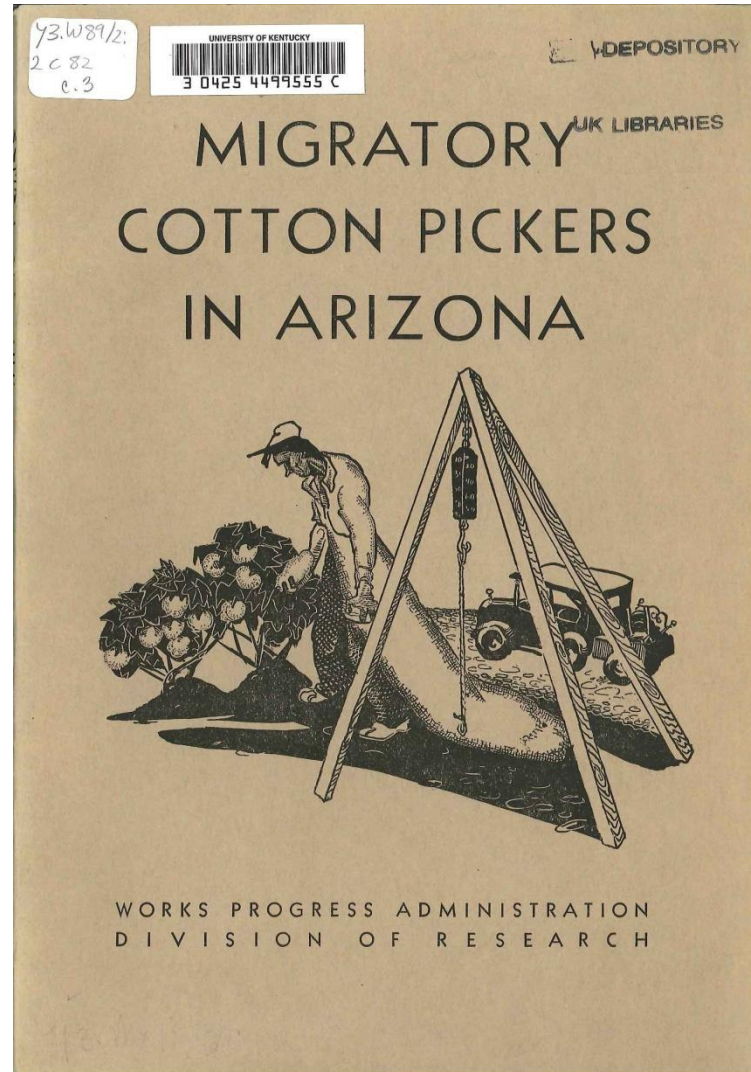
Examples of WPA Publications



Examples of WPA Publications



Examples of WPA Publications



A decorative graphic in the bottom right corner consisting of a grid of colored dots in shades of purple, teal, yellow, and light blue, arranged in a pattern that tapers to the right.



InfoKat Record



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Titles 1 of 1

Migratory cotton pickers in Arizona /


Title: Migratory cotton pickers in Arizona / by Malcolm Brown and Orin Cassmore ; under the supervision of John N. Webb.
Author: United States. Works Progress Administration.
Other Author(s): Brown, Malcolm Johnston, 1910-
Cassmore, Orin Clark, 1909-
Johansen, Sigurd Arthur, 1902-
Publisher: Washington : U.S. G.P.O., 1939.
Description: xxii, 104 p. : ill., maps, facsim. ; 26 cm.
Format: Book
Subjects: Cotton picking--Arizona.
Cotton picking--New Mexico.
Cotton growing--Arizona.
Cotton growing--New Mexico.
Notes: At head of title: Works Progress Administration, F.C. Harrington, administrator, Corrington Gill, assistant administrator; Division of Research, Howard B. Myers, director.
*Migratory-casual workers in New Mexico, by Sigurd Johansen": p. 83-91.
Includes bibliographical references.
Division of Research (formerly Division of Social Research), Works Progress Administration, special reports": p. [2] of cover.
UK holds archival copy for ASERL Collaborative Federal Depository Program libraries.

Holdings Information

Location:	Storage SuDoc - Click on Requests and select Book Express
Call Number:	Y 3.W 89/2:2 C 82
Status:	Not Checked Out
Location:	Storage SuDoc - Click on Requests and select Book Express
Call Number:	Y 3.W 89/2:2 C 82
Status:	Not Checked Out
Location:	Storage SuDoc - Click on Requests and select Book Express
Call Number:	Y 3.W 89/2:2 C 82
Status:	Not Checked Out
Location:	Young Library - 4th Floor
Call Number:	HD8039.C67 U6 1939

This Item
[Record View](#)
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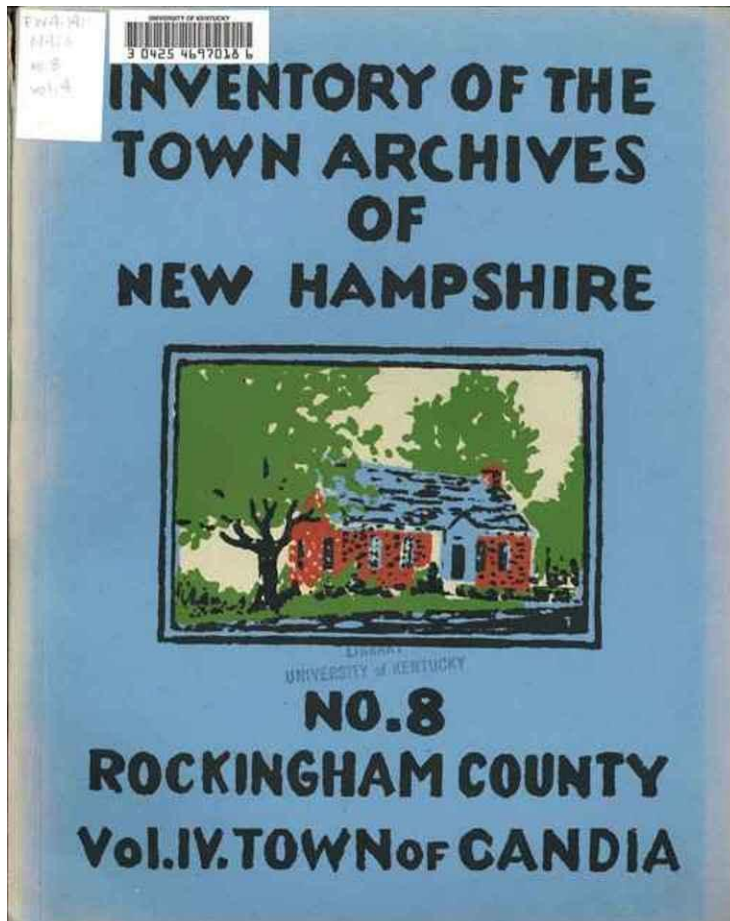
Actions
[Make a Request](#)
(Select Book Express if "Not Checked Out". Otherwise, select Hold for Wait List or Recall to have item returned immediately.)
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Historical Records Survey publications in the WPA collection



- Represent 58% of the collection
- Classed in both FW and Y3.W 89/2 SuDoc stems depending on time period
- UK is acquiring two copies of each title: one for access and digitization, one for a dark archive
- Kentucky digital copies are available on the Kentucky Digital Library at: [http://kdl.kyvl.org/?f\[format\]\[\]=books](http://kdl.kyvl.org/?f[format][]=books)
- Several other SE states have been digitized but are not available yet

UK's LibGuide for our WPA Collection

[<http://libguides.uky.edu/wpa>]



The Works Progress Administration - Works Progress Administration - Research Guides at University of Kentucky Libraries



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History of the WPA

The Works Progress Administration was created by the order of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and was funded by Congress through the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act in April of 1935. The Works Progress Administration was renamed the Work Projects Administration (WPA) in 1939 and was the largest agency in the New Deal, employing millions to construct public buildings and roads, and operate arts and literacy projects. Almost every community in the United States had a public building, road or bridge created by the WPA.

The approximate total amount spent from 1936 to 1943 was over \$11 billion which especially benefited rural and western populations.

During the Great Depression the WPA provided some skills training and almost 8 million jobs to the unemployed. These jobs, however, were limited to one person per household. Approximately 15 percent of the households were headed by women. The average age of the workers was 40 years old.

Libraries benefited greatly from the WPA. Construction and renovation projects on libraries alone employed over 27,000 people by 1940 (1).

(1) Stanford, Edward. 1944. *Library Extension Under the WPA: An Appraisal of an Experiment in Federal Aid*. University of Chicago Press. Chicago. p. 1.

[Comments \(0\)](#)

The University of Kentucky's WPA collection becomes a Center of Excellence

The Works Progress Administration (WPA) collection at the University of Kentucky dates from the early 1930s to the late 1970s and is becoming more comprehensive thanks to the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL), and the Collaborative Federal Depository Program (CFDP). UK has been given the opportunity to develop a Center of Excellence for the WPA through an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grant. As a Center of Excellence, UK is developing a collection of archival pieces that are non-circulating and will preserve the WPA publications in their original format. The libraries are also acquiring extra copies for use by researchers. Currently, UK's collection has over 2,000 items published by the Works Progress Administration.



The WPA published many American Imprints Inventories, which are quite fascinating historical accounts of library collections in each state. The *Supplemental Check List Of Kentucky Imprints 1788-1820: American Imprints Inventory No. 38* lists the titles of books published about or in Kentucky. This particular book lists the holdings of 30 libraries around the United States.

The University of Kentucky's collection has many items that chronicle Kentucky's involvement and history with the WPA such as:

Inventory of The County Archives of Kentucky: no.34 Fayette County (Lexington). Prepared by The Historical Records Survey, the Division of Women's and Professional Projects, and the Works Progress Administration. This publication contains an historical sketch of Lexington as well as a layout of the governmental organization. It also states that the State Office of the Historical Records Survey was originally located in Lexington.

Another interesting publication from the WPA is the *Assigned Occupations of persons employed on WPA projects*, published in November 1937. This publication is filled primarily with tables numbering how many people were employed on WPA projects organized by state. The introduction provides a brief description of the data as well as the occupational groups and major types of projects.

The WPA was also responsible for publishing many Guides, one of which is the *Guide to Depositories of Manuscript Collections in the United States: Minnesota*. This guide contains lists organized by library of all the manuscripts held in Minnesota libraries.

[Comments \(0\)](#)

Posters from the WPA era



The WPA created posters to advertise their array of programs available to the public. They were displayed in seventeen states and the District of Columbia, and were made possible by one of the



AT THE FEDERAL ART GALLERY
PEASE STATION NOV 1935-1936



Video: benefits of the WPA

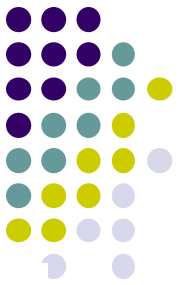
Be sure to check your volume! This video has sound!



Material Formats

- Print
 - Young, Storage, Special Collections, Branches
 - SuDoc and LC classifications
- Microform
- Digital
 - Future accessibility of many items via the web
- Photographs
- Posters
- Art (UK Art Museum collection)

All of this is possible because of support from:



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Museum and **Library**
SERVICES